



FAMILY TIES



SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

Director's Message

Glen Steenblik



As Christmas preparations ramp up and move into full swing, may we remember to pause to take a break from the sometimes, exhausting hustle and bustle that is connected with this holiday time. I reflect on the words of President James E. Faust, who, at a Christmas Devotional, said of this time of year:

"It is a time when we push back for a short time our concerns and challenges, and turn off unpleasantness, a time when we have uplift and feelings of good towards everyone. It is a special time as it gives us an opportunity to refocus our lives on the Savior and all He means to us."



From the writings of Charles Dickens' book and personal testimony to his family, ***The Life of Our Lord***, I am reminded:

"It is Christianity TO DO GOOD, always - even to those who do evil to us. It is Christianity to love our neighbours as ourself, and to do to all men, as we would have them do unto us. It is Christianity to be gentle, merciful, and forgiving, and to keep those qualities quiet in our hearts, and never make a boast of them, or of our prayers or of our love of God, but always to show that we love Him by humbly trying to do right in everything. If we do this, and

remember the life and lessons of our Lord Jesus Christ, and try to act up to them, we may confidently hope that God will forgive us our sins and mistakes, and enable us to live and die in peace."



As we each strive at this special time of year to be more Christ-like, may we pause and give of our time, give service, and give the gift of self. May we share of ourselves and His message. One of the best ways to accomplish this is through temple and family history work, a service that we can do for others, and that which they cannot do for themselves. May we go forth to "do good always," and receive with grateful hearts all His marvelous blessings He has in store for us now and in the coming year.

Light the World 2017

"Last year, over 1.7 million people came together to light the world during the month of December, sharing stories of faith, service, and love. This year #LightTheWorld is back with 25 new ways to share the Savior's light with the everyone around you," writes Melissa Gee in her blogpost of November 16, 2017 at FamilySearch.org. It might be fun for your family to join in this program to connect better with the reason for the season.

Each day in December you can go to Mormon.org and see the suggested projects

for the day. Each day there is a scripture associated with the day. Ponder the scripture and decide how you can put it into action. It doesn't have to be a big thing just something to spread the Light of the Savior into the world around you. It is always good to serve those around you but you can also serve your ancestors with this program. Here are some of the ideas that Melissa gave for including family history into your #LightTheWorld.

Friday, December 1: *"Freely ye have received, freely give"* (Matthew 10:8). This would be a great day to give back to those who have made so many records available online. Thousands of volunteers have become involved in FamilySearch Indexing and billions of records are now online. But there are still BILLIONS of records needing to be indexed.

Sunday, December 3: *"Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days"* (Matthew 12:12). We have been asked to make the Sabbath a delight and one of the ways we can do that is through family history work. Family history brings the Spirit into our homes. Find time this day to do something simple like uploading photos to your Memories gallery or interview a living relative.

Tuesday, December 5: *"Honour thy father and mother"* (Matthew 15:4). Family history is all about turning our hearts to our fathers by remembering them and honoring their memories. Take time today to tell their stories and record them. Upload them to your Memories gallery.

Sunday, December 17: *"Ye shall meet together oft"* (3 Nephi 18:22). Family gatherings are abundant this time of year, and they tend to strengthen family ties. This

doesn't mean that you need to plan something elaborate. Make a phone call or visit a family member. You could even begin preparations for the family reunion.

Wednesday, December 20: *"A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth"* (Luke 12:15). We are much more than the possessions we own. What do you want your posterity to remember about you? Begin recording today the memories of your life using #52Stores to get ideas. You can use a journal, voice recording, or online resources.

Whatever you decide to do this month, try bringing the Light of the Savior into the world around you. You can download the full #LightTheWorld calendar for 2017 at <https://www.mormon.org/christmas/25-ways-25-days-calendar>. See what other ways you can come up with to light the world with family history.



(Source: Melissa Gee, FamilySearch blogpost, November 16, 2017)

2017 Worldwide Indexing Event Results

The results are in from the recent 2017 Worldwide Indexing Event and they are amazing! Over 7 million new family history records will now be available on FamilySearch.org thanks to the efforts of volunteers around the world. Nearly 80,000 people worked to transcribe historical records to make them searchable online. Included in this number were over 9,000 first time

indexers! In the Granite Stake alone there were three times the indexers in October than in September.

The areas of the most volunteers were North America and Latin American South with a total of more than 64,000. Total number of countries that participated was 116, languages represented 10, and volunteers of all ages. If you didn't get a chance to index during the event in October, you can still work to index records.

Web Indexing

Have you tried the new web indexing? While it was nice to have the program on your own desktop, the days of that technology have passed. The software making a desktop program possible has quickly gone out of date and changes have been in the works for several years. The sheer numbers of indexers have made it difficult for the program to keep up. Adding new features and improving the program was becoming more expensive every year. The other drawback was that you could only do indexing on a computer that had the program downloaded on it.

The nice thing about the new web platform is that you can now index on any browser and with any desktop, laptop, or tablet device with internet connection! No more downloads or updates! More types of projects will be available on the web program. The bottom line for all of this is that FamilySearch will be able to publish records more quickly than with the desktop program.

The new web program allows FamilySearch to make constant improvements. If you don't like a feature today, you can use the Feedback button in the top right-hand corner to share

your comments. The feedback is being evaluated constantly, and improvements made to the program based on feedback on a regular basis.

Arbitrators are now no longer part of the program. No more deciding between Person A and Person B as to who is right. Reviewers will double check the work of the indexer and make necessary changes before resubmitting the batch. You can receive Review rights after indexing 1,000 records in the new system.

Other additional desktop features that you have loved are being added to the program soon such as name and place Lookup Lists and the ability to hide and reorder fields. If you feel that you can't make the move to the web indexing program, don't despair. There are plenty of online helps to get you started. <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/started-indexing-online-2/> offers a step by step tutorial for starting online indexing. Or contact your stake temple and family history consultant in charge of indexing.

(Source: November 20, 2017, FamilySearch blogpost)

“There are millions upon millions of spirit children of our Heavenly Father who never heard the name of Christ before dying and going into the spirit world. But now they have been taught the gospel and are waiting the day when you and I will do the research necessary to clear the way so that we can go into the house of the Lord and perform for them the work that they themselves cannot perform.”

Thomas S. Monson, “Hastening the Work”

Miracle of the Vegetables

Liz Kennington

I'm not sure if miracles are abundant in your life, but mine has been full of amazing ones. I can recount numerous times when the Lord has blessed me with large and small miracles that have given me reassurances that He knows me and loves me. The one miracle that returns to my memory, especially at this time of year, is the miracle of the vegetables.

I know—vegetables. How can it be that this one thing continues to remind me that God is in the details of our lives? Because it was unexpected and unasked for, just a simple occurrence. Nothing fancy but greatly needed. But I get ahead of myself.

The story began many years ago when my husband Dean served as the bishop of our ward. He had asked the members of our ward to share our ward Christmas party with Seniors living in a state funded, low income center.

The different organizations took their assignments and ran with them. One member of the ward bought poinsettias to help with the decorations and to give to residents of the building. Other ward members organized the dinner and program. People signed up for food, decorating, and set-up/clean-up. The day of the event came.

Many of us arrived at the center, prepared to set-up for the event. Soon the dining room was festive with poinsettias, garlands, and Christmas place settings. Food began to arrive and was placed in food warmers. Everything that is except the vegetables. Either those assignments somehow didn't get made or people forgot. We never knew. But

the amount of vegetables needed for several hundred people just didn't come. We hoped that they were on their way, but still nothing. It was determined that we would mix what veggies we had together and hope that they would at least serve the Seniors.

Dinner serving began. Of course, the Seniors were served first. Plate after plate was sent out to the dining room. The vegetable warming tray was full of juice, and we really couldn't see what was in the pan. Soon all the Seniors were served, and ward members were lining up for food. Dip after dip in the warming tray brought up generous portions of vegetables, long after what had been put in the tray should have been gone. All the Seniors and ward members had lots of vegetables that night. At the end of the evening we even had leftover vegetables!



Dipping that ladle all night taught me a valuable lesson: God sees our needs and supplies them in ways that we often can't explain or understand. The vegetables were a simple part of that holiday meal and could have been eliminated if needed. But God knew we needed a miracle to share that evening. Many of the Seniors commented on how fun the evening was and how good the dinner tasted. Every one ward member went about serving and sharing their party with the Seniors.

If you don't think that miracles exist in your life, look again. Each day our Heavenly Father touches our lives as we work to find our ancestors, often in ways that seem small and insignificant. We just need to open our eyes and feast upon the miracles that are placed in our paths each day.

#52Stories**Holidays and Traditions**

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone, with Christmas just a few short weeks away. This is the last month of the #52Stories series but that doesn't mean you need to quit writing your own history. Watch and see the things that have meaning to you this holiday season and bring those details into your history writing. These 12 questions are designed to help you view your own traditions centered around the holidays.

- 1 What were some of your favorite holiday traditions from childhood? How far back do these traditions go—to your parents' or grandparents' generation or even beyond?
- 2 Which of your childhood holiday traditions have you carried on into adulthood? What new traditions have you started?
- 3 As a child, which were your top three favorite holidays and why? Have your favorites changed over the years?
- 4 What are some of the ways you saw your parents sacrifice to make your holidays magical?
- 5 For each of your favorite holidays, can you think of a year it was particularly memorable special? What was different about that year?
- 6 What are the most memorable and treasured gifts you have received throughout your life—from any gift-giving occasion?

7 What are the most thoughtful gifts you've ever given—where you truly learned it's better to give than receive?

8 What are all of the different occasions you celebrate each year—including national holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, religious and cultural observances, and lesser-known holidays?

9 What do you look forward to every summer? People you see, places you go, events you attend, seasonal food you prepare, hobbies you participate in, traditions you observe?

10 What do you look forward to every spring? People, places, things, events, food, hobbies, traditions?

11 What do you look forward to every fall? People, places, things, events, food, hobbies, traditions?

12 What do you look forward to every winter? People, places, things, events, food, hobbies, traditions?

Center Closure

Granite FHC will be closed 15 December-1 January because of the Christmas holiday. Sunday classes will be held on Sunday, 17 December as planned. Join us again for classes and other activities beginning 2 January 2018. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. New classes will be available on the website in the middle of December.



RootsTech 2018

RootsTech is all about preserving and sharing family stories through technology and innovation. Will you be part of the learning this next year, 28 February – 3 March? You might consider giving yourself an early Christmas gift by registering now for RootsTech 2018.

“It’s so important to know who you are and to know your story. And when you know your story, then you can understand your own particular trials, the trials of your ancestors, and it helps you appreciate who you are,” said Sherri Camp at the 2017 event.

Knowing our family stories isn’t just a nice thing to know. It is vital to who we are. When you know your stories and how they have shaped your life, then you can see your ancestors’ influence in your life in often unexpected ways.



Keynote speakers have been announced for Thursday and Friday. Scott Hamilton, Olympic gold medalist in figure skating, is scheduled to speak on

Friday, March 2, 2018. Hamilton is known as the eternal optimist, who is convinced that “the only disability in life is a bad attitude.” His story will be interesting, especially for adoptees who are searching for their heritage. Hamilton himself is an adoptee and has two adopted children.

Brandon Stanton, creator of “Humans in New York,” will be a keynote speaker on Thursday, March 1, 2018. After being laid off as a bond trader



in Chicago in 2010, Stanton bought a camera with the goal of creating a photographic census of 10,000 people on the streets of New York. Since then, his work has attracted over 20 million fans and his “Humans of New York: The Series” is a popular weekly Facebook series.

It was announced recently that Elder and Sister Dallin H. Oaks are speaking at the Family Discovery Day on Saturday, 3 March 2018.



Visit the RootsTech website to see just how affordable your experience can be. Passes start at just \$69, and there are tracks available for any level of expertise. Remember that Family Discovery Day is free but must be registered for in advance.

Find time to attend RootsTech 2018 and learn how you can become a better family historian.

Visit our website for updates, class schedule, and information:
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